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New Certificate Programs Offer Students Focused Expertise

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents today approved requests to deliver new certificate programs in the areas of leadership, biotechnology, and information assurance.

Certificate programs usually require fewer credit hours to complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing identified market and workforce development needs.

New certificate programs were approved for the following:

- **Dakota State University** – *Information Assurance, Ethical Hacking Certificate*
 - This certificate requires 9 credit hours of study. It provides students with practical hands-on security assessment skills related to computer networks, web applications, wireless systems, and other technologies.
- **South Dakota State University** – *Clinical Nurse Leadership Certificate*
 - This is a post-master's certificate requiring 22 credit hours of study, and was developed in response to a Veterans' Administration mandate that a certified Clinical Nurse Leader be integrated within every VA hospital unit by 2020.
- **Northern State University** – *Biotechnology Certificate*
 - This certificate requires 12 credit hours of study and provides students with fundamental skills in biotechnology research methods. A background in these techniques is in demand at industrial sites and clinical and research labs nationwide.
- **Black Hills State University** – *Graduate Certificate in Crisis Leadership & Emergency Management*
 - This graduate-level certificate requires 12 credit hours of study. It is designed for leaders who manage or may be required to manage critical incidents related to terrorism; homeland security; transportation, natural, or manmade disasters; and workplace or school violence situations.